

Mystery Zone

By Joey Guerra



1. In my youth, I worked as a movie theater usher and a truck driver.
2. I first signed with a local recording company and was known as "The Hillbilly Cat."
3. I had a twin brother that died at birth. I was delivered 35 minutes later.
4. In my career, I won three Grammy awards, all for gospel music.
5. My hair color was originally blonde.
6. I am a direct descendant of Abraham Lincoln's great-great grandfather, Isaiah Harrison.
7. I was one of the first people in the U.S. to own a Betamax system VCR.
8. I was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1998.
9. I was a 1953 graduate of Humes High School in Memphis, Tenn.
10. I held the record for most Top 10 hits at one time — until R&B singer Ashanti recently broke it.
11. I owned a pet chimpanzee called Scatter.
12. My television debut was on the regionally telecast "Louisiana Hayride," March 5, 1955 in Shreveport, La. ©

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BioZone

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Madonna

Full Name: Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone

Born: Aug. 16, 1958, in Bay City, Mich.

Nicknames: Nonnie, Maddy, Mo, The Material Girl, Madge

Vital Stats: Albums, awards, tours ... controversy, controversy, controversy. You know the story.

All in the Family: Madonna's next big project is the film *Swept Away*, directed by hubby Guy Ritchie. Set for release in October, the film centers on a snooty socialite who is stranded on a Mediterranean island with a communist sailor. Love and war ensue. *Swept Away* is a remake of Lina Wertmüller's 1974 classic, and it co-stars Jennifer Aniston, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Adriano Giannini, who plays the role that his father, Giancarlo Giannini, played in the original movie. The movie is also Ritchie's third collaboration with wife Madonna after her (uncredited) turn in the BMW short film, *Star* (2001),

and the music video "What It Feels Like for a Girl" (2001).

Madonna meets Bond ... James Bond:

Also on the horizon this year, Madonna will compose and perform the title song for the latest Bond flick, *Die Another Day*, set for release November 22. Madonna has also signed on to make a cameo in the film. Details of the role are still top secret. The film stars Pierce Brosnan, Oscar-winner Halle Berry, John Cleese and Judi Dench. *Die Another Day* is the 20th film in the James Bond series. Madonna's "Die Another Day" single and music video will be released in October.

Girl Power: Madonna ranked No. 4 in *Forbes* magazine's recent Celebrity 100 List, behind Britney Spears, Tiger Woods and Steven Spielberg. She reportedly earned \$43 million; had 627,000 Web hits; 34,754 press clips, including two cover stories; and 398 TV/radio mentions.

Another Bun in the Oven?: Rumors still persist, but Madonna has officially denied that a third baby is on the way. "I want to officially state on behalf of Madonna and Guy Ritchie that they are definitely NOT expecting a child," stated Madonna's long time manager, Caresse Henry, on the pop diva's official Website. "I'm aware of press reports stating that Madonna's father confirmed her pregnancy, but it is all fiction from beginning to end," added Ms. Henry.

This & That: Despite less-than-glowing reviews, Madonna's recent run in London's West End in the play "Up For Grabs," was completely sold out. She is also in the midst of recording a new album, which may be out late this year. (In all honesty, though, expect to see it no sooner than next year.) ©